**Performance of Rural Development Programmes**

*588. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently reviewed the implementation of the Rural Development Programmes;

(b) if so, whether any shortcomings in their implementation have been noticed in Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the follow up action taken by Government for implementation of the schemes, as per the set guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Recently the meeting of the Performance Review Committee (PRC) took place on 12th and 13th April 2007 in New Delhi. The review primarily focused on performance of implementation of programmes during 2006-07 and action plan for 2007-08. Review and monitoring of the rural development programmes being implemented by the Ministry is a continuous and integral part of the programme implementation system. Besides other, the Performance Review Committee (PRC) is a mechanism in the Ministry to review performance of the programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development on a quarterly basis for monitoring the effective execution of various schemes/ programmes. Programmes are reviewed for all the States and Union Territories, including Himachal Pradesh.

In Himachal Pradesh, the utilisation of funds released under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was found to be good. The utilisation was 94.83 and 102.84% respectiveiy in the year 2006-07. The utilisation of funds was 72.80% in Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and 72.57% in Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY).

However, the performance of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) is not satisfactory as the utilisation was only 36.62 per cent. In case of National Employment Guarntee Act, Rs. 39.40 crore was spent and 29.9 lakh person days were created.

The State Government, including Himachal Pradesh, were advised to step up the implementation process to achieve the program objectives by

encouraging the State Governments to follow five-pronged strategy of awareness generation, people' participation, transparency, accountability and strict vigilance and monitoring.

**Taxes on cement**

†*589. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tax is collected by Government on cement and on the material used for its manufacture in the country;

(b) if so, the kind of taxes imposed by the Central Government and the State Governments on cement and on the material used for its manufacture during 2006-07;

(c) the rates of the tax collected by the Central and the State Governments; and

(d) the amount of all the taxes recovered per tonne as in April, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The taxes imposed by the Central and State Governments on cement and materials used for its manufacture include Central excise duty, education cess on excise duty, Central sales tax, value added tax/sales tax and octroi. Royalty is also imposed on lime-stone and coal used in manufacturing cement.

(c) The Applicable rates of taxes collected by the Central and State Governments on Cement are as below:

**Imposed by the Central Government:**

1. Excise Duty on cement:

   a. In case of large cement plants @ Rs. 350/MT for cement with retail sale price (RSP) not exceeding Rs. 190 bag of 50 Kg; @ Rs. 600/MT for RSP of cement exceeding Rs. 190/bag; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.